

AUG 23 1962

Approved For Release 1999/09/07 : CIA-RDP75-0  
NEWS

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Kennedy Calls It a 'Rather Intensive Quantity'

## 15 More Red Ships Sail for Cuba

Fifteen communist bloc cargo ships were reported steaming toward Cuba today in what appeared to be an increase in the movement of Red supplies and technicians to that communist island.

President Kennedy called attention at his press conference yesterday to what he termed a "rather intensive quantity" of supplies and technicians moving into Cuba recently. Mr. Kennedy said the significance of the movement was being analyzed by administration officials.

The arrival of 15 ships would bring to 31 the number of bloc vessels, mainly Russian, which have unloaded at Havana within a month, a rate described by experts here as "above average." Five Soviet passenger ships and 11 bloc cargo ships put into

Havana in the last few days of July.

The passenger ships were estimated to have a combined capacity of 3000 to 5000 persons. But except for one ship carrying 400 agricultural technicians, the vessels were unloaded under security conditions and little is known about the actual number or nature of the personnel.

They are believed to be mainly technicians ranging from military to agricultural, many perhaps replacing other bloc technicians who had completed their work terms and are being rotated home. But officials said there is evidence more technicians are arriving than leaving.

The "supplies" unloaded, which Mr. Kennedy did not identify, are believed to include military equipment and some food. Soviet personnel were reported to have done much of the unloading themselves. Mr. Kennedy told

newsmen there was no evidence Soviet "troops" were among the arrivals, as rumored among Cuban exile groups. (UPI.)

### 12,000 Red Troops in Cuba, Exile Says

NEW YORK, Aug. 23 (UPI) —An exiled Cuban political figure said today that according to reliable underground reports received from Havana "more than 12,000" Russian troops have arrived in Cuba to bolster the Castro regime.

The Cuban, Dr. Carlos Marquez Sterling, said the majority of the Soviet forces debarked at the maritime terminal in Havana or at the nearby port of Mariel and were

taken in buses to suburban areas outside the capital.

### 'Rebels' Defeated

HAVANA, Aug. 23 (UPI) —The Castro government announced yesterday that army troops and militia units fought a battle with rebels in Camaguary Province and killed their leader.

No details were released the date of the fighting was not given in the announcement by the government-controlled press.

The dead rebel captain was identified as Manuel ("Crazy Man") Lopez. He was described as a "despicable collaborator of the (United States) counter-intelligence agency."